

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 11/20/11
HB 177

House Bill 177
January 20, 2011
Presented by Dave Risley
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Wildlife Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in opposition to House Bill 177.

House Bill 177 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create a program to identify, prevent, and monitor diseases carried by wolves that may affect human health. It should be noted that the diseases potentially carried by wolves are the same as carried by numerous other wildlife and domestic animals. In nearly all cases, it would be difficult to attribute a human case of any of the diseases listed in HB177 to wolves, versus coyotes, foxes, bobcats, deer, bats, ground squirrels, or a person's pet dog.

We believe this is a new, costly program to address an issue of extremely small risk to our constituents. We will continue to work with DPHH on zoonotic diseases as needed and advise our hunters and anglers to take common sense precautions when enjoying the outdoors. I urge the committee to vote "do not pass" on this legislation.